

**ABSTRACT**

Externally detectable electronic article surveillance markers are attached to  
5 surgical implements, such as sponges and surgical instruments, appointed for use in a  
surgical wound. The attachment mechanism facilitates detection by an external  
interrogating field before the wound has been closed and the patient has left the  
operating table. The markers are responsive to the imposition of an interrogating field  
produced by an electronic article surveillance system. Use of the attachment  
10 mechanism and markers assure that the surgical implements are reliably detected and  
removed before completion of the surgical procedure. This technique eliminates the  
not infrequent mishap in which an implement is undiscovered at the time of surgery  
and remains indefinitely within the surgical cavity, often entailing dire consequences  
to the patient.